Non-traditional No More: Policy Solutions for Adult Learners: Academic Affairs

WICHE-facilitated Meeting
New Jersey
June 25, 2009
Goals of the Day

• Identify what New Jersey wants to accomplish with respect to Academic Affairs
• Identify the power centers and who is responsible for the target areas
• Prioritize the goals
• Assign next steps and agree on a timeline
New Way of Thinking

• Change in mindset
• Expand thinking
• New and creative ways to promote and encourage student success
Background
Why Target Adult Students?

• International competition and changing global economy
• Increased earnings
Differences in College Attainment (Associate & Higher) Between Younger & Older Adults—U.S. & OECD Countries, 2006

Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), *Education at a Glance 2008*
Differences in College Attainment (Associate & Higher) Between Younger & Older Adults—U.S., 2006

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey (ACS)
Changing Global Economy

- “At the military and political level, we still live in a unipolar world. But along every other dimension – industrial, financial, social, cultural – the distribution of power is shifting, moving away from American dominance.”

Source: Newsweek, May 12, 2008
Increased Earnings

• Among adults aged 18-64, those who earn an associate’s degree can expect, on average, over $7,200 more in annual earnings than those who do not.

Online Learning

- Almost 3.9 million students were taking at least one online course during the fall 2007 term; a 12 percent increase over the number reported the previous year.
- The 12.9 percent growth rate for online enrollments far exceeds the 1.2 percent growth of the overall higher education student population.
- More than 20 percent of all U.S. higher education students were taking at least one online course in the fall of 2007.

Source: Sloan-C, Staying the Course: Online Education in the United States, 2008.
What About New Jersey?
New Jersey’s Adults (25-64) Completed College, 2006

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey (ACS)
New Jersey’s Adults (25-64) Some College/No Degree, 2006

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey (ACS)
New Jersey’s Adults (25-64) High School Diploma/No College, 2006

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey (ACS)
New Jersey’s Adults (25-64) Less Than High School Diploma, 2006

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey (ACS)
Change in Occupations Requiring Postsecondary Degree: 2002-2012

New Jersey’s Working-Age Adults

5,509,302 working-age adults (2005)

• 3,305,494 (60 percent) have not completed either an associate’s or bachelor’s degree. Of these:
  – 1,071,743 (32 percent) have completed some college, but no degree.
  – 648,531 (20 percent) are living in families whose combined incomes are less than a living wage (twice the poverty level).

Topics of Concern
Topics of Concern – Getting In

- Recruitment
- Admissions
- Residency
- Placement/Competency Exams/Prior Learning Assessment
- Credit/Experiential Credit
Topics of Concern – While You’re There

• Remediation
• Class/Program/Degree Scheduling
• Mode of Delivery/Integrating Distance Learning into Academics
• Advising
• Faculty Development (Targeted to Adult Learners)
Topics of Concern – Getting Out

• Transfer/Articulation
• Degree Requirements
  – Last 30 Hours to be Completed on Home Campus
  – Unpaid Internships
Identifying the Problem(s)
Gaps Identified in the Work Plan

- Differing transfer policies across institutions
- Lack of credit system for prior work or learning at most institutions
- Inconsistent requirements for proportion of degree credits which must be institutionally earned
- Education culture not geared to adult students
Problem Identification

- Hypothetical Situation and Discussion
## Problem Identification

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Problem Identification

• Hypothetical Situation - Websites
Next Steps and Timeline
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